

[25 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Subsidy on Sprayer Pump

3266. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals seeking permission to allow 50 per cent subsidy on sprayer pump to orchardists of Himachal Pradesh are lying pending with Government since December, 1997;

(b) whether the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has been requesting from time to time for approval of same;

(c) whether Government propose to consider these proposals early in the interest of development of Himachal Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) A proposal for granting 50% subsidy on Power Sprayers was sent by the Government of Himachal Pradesh in November, 1997. However, there was no provision in any of the Schemes of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation during the Eighth Plan to provide subsidy on Power Sprayers. The State Government was informed accordingly. A letter in this regard was received again in June, 2000 from the Government of Himachal Pradesh. During the Ninth Plan, provision has been kept under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Integrated Development of Fruits' for Horticulture Mechanization. Under this component assistance is being provided with effect from the year 2000-01 for all types of manual and power driven equipment @30% of cost subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs.10,000/-per beneficiary.

Implementation of report on Micro-watershed Programmes

3267. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing to implement the report as suggested by the high-level policy Committee constituted by the Narasimha Rao Government on Micro-watershed programmes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?